



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Transportation Commission
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, December 8, 2022 – Minutes – DRAFT

Members Present: Chair Vagnozzi, Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioner Hudson (via Zoom),
Commissioner Potter, and Trustee Sundland

Members Absent: Commissioner Robertson and Planning Commission liaison Snyder

Others Present: Senior Planner Shorkey and Planning Commissioner McConnell

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Vagnozzi called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 23, 2022

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2022. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were received since the last meeting.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. 2023 Master Plan Update

Senior Planner Shorkey discussed the Master Plan update and read his memo. Discussion. The Transportation Commission made the following suggestions:

- Goal #6, Objective A should include a strategy about seeing public input for evaluation of the transportation network
- Goal #6, Object C should include language about how our transportation system should be available for all ages and abilities
- Goal #6, Objective D should include language about the Bike Friendly certification
- Although not part of the Master Plan, this would be a good time to reevaluate the Township Pathway Plan

B. 2023 Meeting Schedule

AFTER DISCUSSION, MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER POTTER. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

C. Okemos Safe Routes to School Discussion

Senior Planner Shorkey discussed the Okemos Safe Routes to School project and read his memo. Discussion. The Transportation Commission made the following suggestions:

- The recommended improvements should be checked against the Township's Pathway Plan
- Although outside of the scope of this project, the Township should take this opportunity to revisit the proposed Consumers Energy right-of-way trail, east of Okemos Road to Dobie Road
- Alternative #1 of the Kinawa Drive and Chippewa School is preferred due to concerns about the location of the proposed pedestrian median and potential interference with bus traffic
- It is suggested that the Kinawa Drive and Kinawa School project alternatives be discussed with the crossing guards at that location to find out their preferred alternative
- In any case, the Transportation Commission is not in favor of Alternative #3 for the Kinawa Drive and Kinawa School project
- Please ask the Ingham County Road Department about the possibility for a full traffic signal at Kinawa Drive and Channing Way
- If alternative #3 for the Kinawa Drive west of Dobie project is chosen, please make sure that the pedestrian median island will accommodate bicycle traffic. Six and a half feet will accommodate a full sized bicycle without overlap into the roadway.
- Some of the Transportation Commission members question the need for some of the sidewalk construction inside the nearby neighborhood, particularly in the cul-de-sacs.
- Since the Safe Routes to School funding covers walkable area from the schools in question, it seems that additional walking and biking audits further away from the schools are needed to see if there might be more urgent improvements elsewhere that might be higher priority than some of the recommended improvements.

D. General Commission Comments

Commissioner Hudson discussed her road, Skyline Drive; it was recently chip sealed and neighbors were not happy with the result. Commissioner Hudson asked the Transportation Commission for suggestions. Vice-Chair Lovell asked if sidewalks had been discussed. Commissioner Hudson said that they had but that they were not possible because of design issues. Vice-Chair Lovell said that it is difficult to compact chip seal on a residential road. Vice-Chair Lovell asked Senior Planner Shorkey to ask engineering staff to take another look and reconsider using chip seals in residential neighborhoods.

Commissioner Potter asked if Skyline Drive had been in bad shape. Commissioner Hudson said that it had been redone in 2012 and did not know why it was redone in 2022. Commissioner Hudson asked Senior Planner Shorkey to ask about this.

Commissioner Hudson made a motion to ask the Township to consider alternatives to chip seals on residential streets in order to allow non-motorized use of the streets. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Lovell. Commissioner asked for language to be added to address safety concerns from loose stones. Vice-Chair Lovell asked for a reference to the Township's complete streets ordinance. Commissioner Hudson accepted the added language.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HUDSON TO ASK THE TOWNSHIP TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO CHIP SEALS ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS WITHOUT SIDEWALKS IN ORDER TO ALLOW SAFE NON-MOTORIZED USE OF STREETS, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP'S COMPLETE STREETS ORDINANCE. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

Vice-Chair Lovell thanked Senior Planner Shorkey for his work on the Bicycle Friendly application. Senior Planner Shorkey said that the application was a fun challenge and that he looked forward to continuing to improve it. Commissioner Potter thanked Director of Public Works Opsommer and the County for their work on trail improvements near Walden Pond.

Commissioner Hudson asked Senior Planner Shorkey if there had been any applicants for the vacant Transportation Commission seat. Senior Planner Shorkey said that there had not.

Chair Vagnozzi announce that this was his last meeting and explained his personal situation. Chair Vagnozzi said that he appreciated working with the Transportation Commission. Chair Vagnozzi asked about an update about Redi-Ride. Trustee Sundland said that the Board had voted to ask CATA to locate a stop at the new McLaren hospital.

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL TO OFFICIALLY THANK CHAIR VAGNOZZI FOR HIS SERVICE ON THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER POTTER. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

7. PROJECT UPDATES

A. MDOT M-43 Project update

Chair Vagnozzi said that he had recently driven on Grand River Avenue and discussed his observations. Chair Vagnozzi complimented the Communications Department and said that they do a great job updating about projects.

B. Okemos Road Project update

Chair Vagnozzi said that he noticed that the beams were in place on the Okemos Bridge. Senior Planner Shorkey gave the Transportation Commission his update based on what he had heard at the Environmental Commission meeting.

C. Local Roads and Other Construction Projects update

No update.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Township Board

Trustee Sundland updated the Transportation Commission on the recent Board activities.

B. Planning Commission

Commissioner McConnell updated the Transportation Commission about recent Planning Commission activities.

C. Chair

Chair Vagnozzi said that he had already spoke.

D. Staff

Senior Planner Shorkey discussed the request from the Environmental Commission for the Transportation Commission to review and comment on the Transportation Section of the Climate Sustainability Plan. Senior Planner Shorkey summarized his 2022 Project Review memo.

9. NEXT MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for January 19, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER POTTER MOVED TO ADJOURN. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL. MOTION APPROVED 5-0 AND CHAIR VAGNOZZI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:16 P.M.